

# The Coin Cabinet

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A - - - - -  
Magazine for Collectors

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JANUARY 1906

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# The Coin Cabinet

A MAGAZINE FOR COLLECTORS

VOL. 1.]

JANUARY, 1906

[No. 2.

## COINS, ETC. WANTED.

Special Wants of Collectors Entered  
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Doughty's Copper Cents of U. S.  
Must be in fine condition.

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Cincinnati "Copperheads," Store  
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board Promises to Pay 1861-2; Paper  
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'O," 1853 C—1854 C, D, 1855 D, 1856  
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over '21-'26 over '25-'27-'33-'34 Old  
Type. 1840 C & D 1841 C. O. P. &  
D 1842 C, P. & D 1846 C, 1848 D, 1848  
P, counterstamped "Cal" above  
Eagle. 1849 P., 1851 C, 1852, C & D.  
1854 D & S 1855 C & D, 1856 C & D,  
1857 D, 1858 S, 1859 D & S, 1860 O.  
C & S 1862 S, 1863 P 1864 P & S  
1865 P & S 1860 C & S—1862 S 1863  
P 1864 P & S. 1865 P & S, 1866 P.  
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For Sale. The finest, if not the  
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money can procure. Don't all speak  
at once, but if any of you have it, ad-  
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Quarter Eagle 1797, 1826, 1841 D,  
1841 O, 1854 D, 1854 S, 1858 S, 1863,  
1864 and 1865 proofs; 1873 proof.

"H" this office.

Collectors and subscribers are par-  
ticularly invited to use this column  
without charge. All "sales" ads. will  
be charged for at one cent per word.

# ...The Coin Cabinet...

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## UNPUBLISHED COINS OF CILICIA.

By Edward T. Newell.

Among the Greek coins that I have lately added to my collection there are three bronze pieces that may be of interest to collectors, for so far as I can find out, they have not as yet been published. All three coins come from the province of Cilicia in Asia Minor. The first one I shall describe was struck at the City of Mopsus, in the name of Augustus and Livia his wife.

Mopsus, or Mopsuestia as it is sometimes called, was a considerable town in the extreme east of Cilicia, situated on the river Pyramus on the road between Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia, and Issus, where Darius was defeated by Alexander the Great. Both autonomous and imperial coins were struck here; but in the British Museum the earliest imperial coin is one of Claudius I. The one in my collection has the head of Augustus on the obverse, but was evidently struck after his death, as is shown both by the inscription and the rayed crown on his head. Obverse, Greek inscription. Radiated head of Augustus to left, border of pearls. Reverse, inscription in exergue M O P S.; draped bust of Livia to right, border of pearls. Size 27 mm.

The next coin is another interesting one, struck at Augusta in Cilicia in the names of Hadrian and Lucius Aelius his favorite. Augusta was a town in the interior, placed by Ptolemy in a district named Bryelice, between the two cities of Anazarlius and Hieropolis. From its name it was evidently either founded under some Roman emperor's patronage or a new name given to an old place. The interest of this coin lies in the fact that it is the first one known of the coinage of this city bearing either the head of Hadrian or that of Aelius. Obverse Greek inscription, head of Hadrian to left, border of pearls. Reverse inscription, bare head of Aelius to left, border of pearls. Size 25 mm.

The third coin is a small autonomous piece of the City of Syedra. Syedra was a coast town in Western Cilicia, between Coracesium and Selinus. Hitherto no autonomous coins of this city have been published; the earliest one in the British Museum being one of the Emperor Trajan. Obverse. Draped head of Pallas Athene to right. She wears a Corinthian helmet; no inscription. Reverse, name of city, figure of winged Victory to right. She holds a palm in her left hand and a wreath in her outstretched right, border of pearls. Size 12 mm. From the appearance of this piece and the style of work employed, it is evidently an autonomous coin struck during the first century of the Roman Empire.



## THE AMERICAN COLLECTOR OF COINS.

By Frank C. Higgins, F.R.N.S., A.N.A. Soc., A.N.A.

There does not seem to me to be a shadow of a doubt but that the American Coin collector is destined to be the great collector of the future. Our satisfaction in him to-day is mainly centered in that. We are proud of the things he is going to do, but at the present moment we are compelled to be indulgent of a growing child of whom we will perhaps be proud, when we are dead and gone, from another sphere.

American collectors are greater numerically than those of any other land, and the American Coin market is probably the most active in the world, but the science of Numismatics, as it is known and cultivated abroad, is at the very lowest ebb.

There are sociological reasons for this concerning which I hold my own opinions and every other man to have the right to his. Coins are valuable either as current media of exchange or as relics of the persons, places and times which they represent. Their study takes us into the lore of other lands, other forms of government, other types of religious belief, other customs and the claims to glory of other histories.

We cannot admire the token while despising its sources of inspiration. With the average good American the "dark ages" commenced with the termination by St. John of the Book of Revelations, and had their end only when the Declaration of Independence made the dawn of American history possible. During these dark ages, however, fortunately or unfortunately, most of the treasures of the numismatic world, not strictly ancient, were produced.

The average American collector is very much pleased with a collection of coins comprising a few Greek and Roman coins, especially of "Bible times," and varieties of American cents or "store-cards." He collects to cover the periods which interest him, that's all. He associates the Ptolemaic series vaguely with the Pyramids—with which they had about



as much to do as with the Croton Aqueduct and wonders if a coin of Gallienus Caesar was ever handled by St. Paul.

Anyone with a few hundred years to spare may sit like Humpty Dumpty on a wall and see a future generation eventually wake up to the fact that the Apostles and the Pilgrim fathers, while they may have shed a great deal of light on lots of things, did not make all history.

True interest in Numismatic science begins in the library, not in the dealer's tray. Conceptions of Political science, conceptions of Art, conceptions of human history and human nature and some imagination must precede any attempt at the conception of human monuments of which the coin is at once the smallest and the greatest. There are many fine collections of coins in the United States principally in the hands of quiet studious men, who are little heard of in the life of Numismatic Societies and affiliations because they could not exist in the American collecting atmosphere ten minutes, and

be comfortable. As long as the American mind continues to be bigoted, narrow and compressed into a volume which can only glory in the wild notion of a present incumbent of our Presidential chair being a greater factor in the balance of the universe than Alexander, Charlemagne and Napoleon, or his favorite candidate in the next Presidential race as greater than them all, so long will he enthuse over mint-marks, die varieties and cracked dies of American *similia* and rave when he lights on such a treasure as a War-time token with John A. Dix on one side and "Go to Mandelbaum Brothers for a nobby necktie," on the other.

The American is the fused product of every known race, and hence I believe that he ought to now, and will some day, take pride and interest in the Numismatic monuments of the whole human family. A Swanson will specialize in Swedish, Danish, or Norwegian coins because he knows his ancestor was a Viking, one Boulanger, or Durand will collect French coins and Schmidtgal will take pride in his collection of Saxon Bracteates. We shall see MacDougall collecting the coins of the canny Scot and Loewy those of the Maccabees, but just now they are principally worried about New Jersey cents struck while their grandfathers were still in Aberdeen or the ghetto of Frankfort and a man named Horsasciewicz counts the holly berries on a liberty cap cent as feverishly as if it was struck in Poland, where he was himself, instead of Philadelphia. Be Patriots, but don't call it "Numismatics."

Too many American collectors in their absolute innocence of historical values make mere accidental variety or freakishness the excuse for becoming goggle-eyed over a "rarity" which has no excuse for existence in point of either historic interest, artistic beauty or reasonable inspiration. They have not time to study Plutarch, or learn enough German to unlock the treasures of Teutonic Numismatic lore, but they can hold up to the admiration of their compeers an inglorious horror of private fabrication which cost so many dollars.

The individual who desires to differ with me because I touch him "too near home," would probably accuse me of depreciating the collection of

American Coins by Americans. By no means. The first duty of the American is to the coins of his own country, but begins and ends with the true coins. Scavenging for private freaks is unworthy of this or any other country. But as long as the national standard of appreciation is what one paid for an object rather than its intrinsic worth the habit will survive.

#### MEN WHO CORNERED COINS.

In Some Instances This Has Been Done With Profit.

*From "Tit-Bits" (London).*

Nearly every one has come across individuals who are under the delusion that English 1861 pennies contain a large percentage of gold. The gold, of course, is non-existent. But that fact has not prevented many estimable individuals collecting all the 1861 pennies they could lay their hands upon with a view to melting them down. A Bradford man named Meyes, who died last year, used to boast that he possessed 7,000. He estimated their value at £135.

In small towns it is quite possible to corner, for a limited period, coins of any one denomination. At a Welsh holiday resort the local band was so indignant at the large proportion of halfpennies in its "silver collections" that it locked up every halfpenny received. In a few weeks there was hardly a halfpenny in the town, and the band thenceforth reaped a harvest of pennies. A Manchester man was so struck by the inconvenience which resulted that, on returning home, he opened a "Copper Change," where, for a small commission, he received packages of pence from those whose business brought them in too many, giving them silver in exchange.

In 1899 an Irishman of Cashel made a bet that thirty single shillings could not be got in all the shops on a certain day. For days in advance he changed innumerable sovereigns and bank notes, thus cornering practically all the silver. He won his bet, his opponent, who was, of course, in ignorance of the trick, being able to scrape together only eleven shillings.

Cornering coins with criminal intent led to a Bayonne Frenchman named Bornier, getting five months



imprisonment in August last. Bornier cornered several thousand 1888 sou pieces, and sold them at fifty centimes (10 cents) each to simple-minded peasants, by declaring that the French Government was going to make each sou bearing that date token money for one franc. He swindled over 200 persons before being apprehended.

The ordinary type of the 1887 sixpence, though worth nothing more than its nominal value, has been almost completely cornered by a number of individuals who believe that it will rise in price as a memento of Queen Victoria's jubilee. Of the tens of thousands issued from the mint few specimens are now in circulation.

Cornering gold coins demands a capital which few men possess. At Dieppe, however, some years ago, there was a sudden scarcity of ten franc and twenty franc pieces, which was traced to an American visitor named Bragg, who, for some cryptic reason, had the day before changed several hundred bank notes of high value into gold. Laden with the coins he left for Paris, and it was not for a week that the normal amount of gold returned to the town.

Superstition has led many ignorant individuals to collect large numbers of coins of a particular denomination. A remarkable case occurred in South Russia two years ago. A "prophet" appeared at Berdiansk, on the Sea of Azov, and proclaimed that he had come to save the world. Meeting with a bad reception from the townspeople, he tramped inland and gained many peasant adherents. Among other queer doctrines, he preached that all five copeck pieces issued in 1831, the year of the emancipation of the serfs, were "holy." They were to be brought to him for preservation in an caken chest. When Russia got into difficulty all these coins would turn to gold and save the Empire.

Over an area of 300 square miles the peasants feverishly set about collecting the holy money. When the prophet had collected about £40 worth he decamped, after changing them at a local bank for gold.

An attempt to corner the Maria Theresa dollars, which are used as currency in many parts of northern Africa, collapsed owing to a queer cause. An Abyssinian, Ras Makoppo, conceived the ingenious idea of col-

lecting all specimens of these coins extant in his district. As they were old coins, he reasoned they would rise in value. After he had possessed himself of about 3,000 he found that the country was as well supplied with them as ever. While he had been busy collecting them modern Maria Theresa dollars made in Germany were being imported by the thousands. The result was that the coin fell in value, and the too astute chief lost half his wealth.

The Russian Government corners its own coins. Every year it mints a limited number of bronze coins of the nominal value of one-quarter copeck, in English value one-sixteenth of a penny. As these coins are practically not in circulation only a few are issued. The remainder are sold by the mint authorities at about double their value for use as card counters.

Birmingham boasts the only man who corners bad coins. This gentleman has a unique collection of false money. Some years ago he issued a notice to various tradespeople that he would give one-quarter of the nominal value for certain specimens of counterfeit coins which might have been passed upon them. He now possesses several thousand, some so like good money that the fraud is not perceptible, some so clumsily made that it is hard to understand how any tradesman could have been taken in.

#### GOLD COINAGE OF SCOTLAND.

By Donald Morgan, LL.D.

One of the least studied, and yet most interesting, coinages of the world is the gold coinage of Scotland, dating back as it does to the fourteenth century—that most exciting time for that tight little isle. Previous to the restoration of David II (Bruce) 1347, after the usurpation of Edward Baliol, no gold coins are known to have been struck; in fact, nothing but silver was used as medium of exchange; but in honor of his restoration to the throne, David ordered struck a coin called a Noble, of a fineness of 21 carats and in weight 94½ grains. It bore the figure of the king crowned standing in a galley with a cross fleurée upon the reverse. As only two or three specimens of this coin are known, and as they all differ, it is very likely that



they were patterns and never reached circulation. At a sale held in London some years ago, a fair specimen was sold for \$200, which will give some idea of its rarity.

During the reign of the next monarch, Robert II (A. D. 1371—1390) there was struck a coin called a St. Andrew, which was 38 grains in weight, and bore on its obverse the arms of Scotland crowned, with a mint mark St. Andrew's cross. On reverse was figure of St. Andrew with extended arms, between two fleur-de-lis. This monarch also struck during the latter part of his reign a coin called a "Lion," with a varying weight of from 19 to 38 grains. On the obverse was the Scottish arms, on reverse St. Andrew's cross, and several varieties, some very rare, are known, that of 30 grains being not uncommon, while those lighter in weight are rare. The "St. Andrew," however, is excessively rare, and has been sold as high as \$100 at auction. During the reign of Robert III (1390-1406) the "Lion" disappears, and we find only the St. Andrew (weight 60 grains) and the Half-St. Andrew (weight 24 grains); the fineness, however, rises to 22 carats and workmanship improves. The type does not materially differ from the "St. Andrew" of the preceding king, except that both short and long crosses are used, the former being very rare. The Half-St. Andrew is excessively rare; at a sale in Edinburgh in 1884 one sold for \$125 even though it was slightly holed. With the reign of James I (1406-37) the "St. Andrew" takes its departure, and we find that the "Lion" and its cub, the Half-Lion take their place. On the "Lion," which, by-the-by, was rather a finely struck coin, we find the arms of Scotland in a lozenge-shaped shield, on the reverse a small cross in the center of an intricate figure composed of fleur-de-lis and most everything else. The "Half-Lion" was similar, and they weighed respectively 53 grains and 27 grains. The large coin of this type is very common, while but few specimens are known of the smaller. During the reign of James II (1437-1460) we find two periods of coinage, one 1437-51, the other 1451-60. During the first period only the "Lion" was struck, which was 50 grains in weight 22 carats fine, and it does not materially

differ from the "Lion" of James I, and is very common. In the second period of coinage we find both the big and little St. Andrews again, with the Scotch arms on the obverse and the Saint on the reverse on a long cross or on a short cross between two crowns. The St. Andrew is rather common, while its little brother is extremely rare; weights respectively 54 and 27 grains. During the reign of James III (1460-1488) we are confronted with three coinages as follows: 1st coinage, 1460, St. Andrew and Half-St. Andrew; 2nd coinage, 1475, "Rider"; 3rd coinage, Unicorn and Half-Unicorn. Of these new values it may be said that the "Rider" had the king on horseback, and on the reverse a plain cross, extending to the edge, surmounted by arms of Scotland; the weight was 80 grains, but its fineness we have no record of, but it must have been very high, as while the coin is common, it is never found in very good state of preservation. The "Unicorns" may be described as follows: Obverse Unicorn with crown round his neck, arms of Scotland below. Reverse Cross fleurée surmounted by wavy pointed star. The weights were 59 and 29½ grains, with a fineness of 21 carats. They are scarce; one variety with the Roman E on it is almost beyond price.

James IV (1488-1514) continued the "Rider" and St. Andrew in his first coinage period (1488), but added the ⅔ Rider, ⅓ Rider, ⅔ Andrew, ⅓ Andrew. The types were very similar to those of the preceding monarch, the weights for the "Riders" being 81, 54 and 27, and the St. Andrews 81, 54 and 27; but in each case we find the fineness to first reach the next to highest purity of any Scotch coin, namely 23 carats. All the gold coins of this monarch are extremely rare, the ⅔ Rider being, if anything, more likely to turn up.

(To be continued.)

#### THE PASSING OF THE MEXICAN PESO.

The days of the old Mexican peso are numbered. The coin which for nearly four centuries has been an important factor in the commercial transactions, not only of Mexico but of the Antilles, Central and South America



and the Orient, has served its term of usefulness.

The new monetary system of the Philippines will drive the peso from the archipelago; the dollar of Indo-China already circulates in such quantities in the French possessions in the Far East that practically it has banished the Mexican dollar; the British dollar has replaced the peso in the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong and Labuan, and the International Exchange Commission has undertaken to draw the attention of the civilized world to the necessity of the adoption by China of a monetary system of its own.

The old Mexican dollar, when this latter measure shall have been adopted, will have come to the end of its career as a trade coin, and, like the thaler of Maria Theresa, it will survive only as a memory of what was once a factor of civilization and progress in the ancient nations of the East.

Now, Mexico itself has sounded the death knell of the peso in the place of its birth. The monetary commission which has been studying the question of currency reform asked itself this question: "Ought the present dollar, which, whatever else it is, is chiefly one of our oldest historical monuments and the trade coin par excellence of America and the Far East, to be retained in circulation?"

In answering the question in the negative the commission has thrown sentiment to the winds, yielded to the requirements of the times, and, when the prospective legislation is placed in force, a new coin will be put in circulation in Mexico.

The old peso is far from being an artistic model, and the imperfections in its design, the poor finish and the indistinctness of its milling invite counterfeiters to imitate it. Recognizing this, and also that the necessity of conserving the prestige which the peso has won in the Far East has passed, the monetary commission has recommended to the government that the old coin be demonetized, and that when the new monetary system is put into force a suitable substitute, carefully designed, accurately coined and bearing a distinctly different effigy, be offered the people.

The romance of the Mexican mint is

without parallel. It was established in 1535 by royal decree. No gold coins were minted until nearly a century and a half later. During the Spanish dominion, which lasted until Mexican independence was recognized in 1821, the silver output of the mint was more than two billion pesos. The gold coinage only amounted to \$69,000,000. Since the establishment of Mexican independence over half a billion silver pesos have been coined.

In the latter years of the sixteenth century, or within fifty years after the mint was established, the Mexican peso was in circulation in the Antilles, Central and South America, and in the Philippines, whence its régime was extended to China and the East Indies. It was not until 1895 that the peso was demonetized by the Spanish government in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In the first century of the Spanish discoveries and colonization, the merchants of Cadiz and Seville sent their cargoes to Vera Cruz. These were freighted by burros over the mountain trails and through the passes to the City of Mexico. Here they were exchanged for silver dollars, which were packed on the backs of the burros and carried to the port of Acapulco, on the Pacific coast. Thence the money was taken to the Philippines in the Spanish galleons, which came back laden with silks, spices and other products of the Orient. Again the burros transported the merchandise, this time across the country to Vera Cruz, where it was transshipped to Spain. The burros still compete with the railroads as common carriers across Mexico, but now they seldom carry burdens of silver dollars.

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### OUR GOLD GOES TO MEXICO.

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#### An Unusual Current of Trade Due to the Steep Price of Silver.

The \$750,000 in gold which the Fourth National Bank withdrew from the Sub-Treasury on Tuesday for export on Dec. 14 was sent to Mexico. The exportation of gold to Mexico is so unusual that the transaction attracted considerable attention in Wall Street at the time. The movement is due to the high price of silver, which has risen to such a point that Mexican bankers find it profitable to sell silver



coins and import gold in payment. Besides the sum referred to, nearly \$1,000,000 more in gold has been sent to Mexico by another foreign exchange interest, and the movement is likely to last as long as the present high price of silver lasts.

Mexico has adopted a new currency system, and the government has put an export duty on the new coins, but there is nothing to prevent the old coins from being exported when the price of silver makes them worth more as bullion than as coin. The silver coinage of the Philippines would quickly leave those islands under the present high price of silver if there were not a heavy export duty. One of the chief causes for the present high price of silver is the enormous demand of the Russian government for silver to pay for the movement of its armies. Commercial bar silver was quoted recently at 65½ cents an ounce and Mexican dollars at 50¼ cents. This is the highest price for bars for nearly ten years.

There has been a heavy demand upon the Sub-Treasury during the past week for new silver coins for the holiday trade.

#### THE SMALLEST COIN.

The natives of the Malay Peninsula have in use the very smallest current coin in the world. It is a sort of wafer, made from the resinous juice of a tree, and is worth about one ten-thousandth of a penny. The smallest metal coin in circulation at the present day is the Portuguese three-reis piece, worth twelve one-hundredths of a penny. The smallest coin circulating officially in any part of the British Empire is the five-millesima piece of Gibraltar, worth about half a farthing.

#### THE LARGEST COIN.

The most remarkable money in the world is used in the island of Yap, in the Caroline group. The "Coin" is as much as 12 feet in diameter and are perforate in the middle, the value of the coin varying according to its size. They are circular slabs of limestone and form a most unwieldy medium of exchange. A man who had extensive business debts to meet would need a whole fleet of canoes, or

perhaps ten yoke of bullocks to transport this specie. Generally speaking, however, this stone money is not moved about to any extent, the great discs or wheels being kept outside the houses of rich men.

#### "CONANTS."

The distinction of giving the name of a private citizen to a coin is somewhat rare. Kings and emperors have sometimes done so. Some of the South American countries have given to their coins the names of their national heroes, as the Bolivar of Venezuela. The only modern case where such an honor has been conferred upon a private citizen is the "Conant," the standard coin of the Philippine Islands, named after Charles A. Conant, the author of "Principles of Money and Banking." Mr. Conant was so successful in perfecting a plan for the Philippine currency that he was invited by the government of Mexico to visit that country, and afterward aided in the creation of the new Panama unit, which has been named the Balboa, for the discoverer of the Isthmus. Out in Manila everything is quoted in "Conants," to distinguish the new money from the old Mexican and American gold.

#### THE THIRTEEN-INFESTED TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECE.

Superstitious people, and there are a great many of them, always regard the number 13 as being unlucky. They will never undertake to start anything new on the 13th of the month; you couldn't pay them to spend a night in a hotel room with the number 13 or the door; likewise they wouldn't sit down to dinner if there were already twelve at the table; yet these same superstitious people will carry any number of quarter dollars in their pockets and never have the least fear.

If they will take one of their numerous quarters and look at the "tail" side, they will notice that there are 13 stars; the motto "E Pluribus Unum" contains 13 letters; the shield is made up of 13 bars; in one claw the eagle is holding 13 arrows, in the other claw there are thirteen leaves on the small branch. Below all these thirteens the



value of the coin is given as "Quarter Dollar"; this also contains 13 letters; so that we have in all six thirteens on the coin.

### MEDALS.

It is somewhat curious that the Italians, surrounded as they have always been by the influences of Greek and Roman plastic art, should have taken up the art of medal-making rather late in the period of the Renaissance, and even then hardly with distinction. Even to-day the work of Italians makes a poor showing when compared with that done by the medal sculptors of Paris and Vienna, or even of Berlin and London. And singular it is that their most proficient historian is a German, Cornelius von Fabriczy, whose work, "Italian Medals," has just been translated by Mrs. Gustavus W. Hamilton; notes have been added by G. F. Hill of the British Museum. Forty-one plates are included in the book, each one showing the reproduction of four or five specimens. These plates are excellent half-tone copies. The frontispiece is Pisano's "John Palaeologus." The author begins with the work of this medalist, and deals with those of Venice and Bologna and other Tuscan cities. Then come interesting chapters on the medals of the "Cinquecento," in which considerable information is imparted concerning the medals of the Medici régime and the Papal mint and its masters. This book will be particularly valuable to collectors, for since the great works of Friedlander, Heiss, and Armand most of the literature on the subject has been confined to periodicals. Von Fabriczy's monograph is entirely free from the old-fashioned numismatic point of view, and makes a brave effort to do complete justice to Italian medalists in accordance with that criterion of excellence by which the painting and sculpture of the Peninsula is gauged.

### PLOUGHED UP ROMAN COINS.

(From the London Daily Mail.)

While a ploughman was at work on Smalley Bight Farm at Stanley, near Leeds, the ploughshare struck an earthenware vase and disclosed some 6,000 old bronze coins, all dating from

the time of the Roman invasion of Great Britain, and many of them in a very good state of preservation.

Most of the coins are about the size and thickness of a sixpence. On some of the best preserved appears the name of Constantine, and others bear a design depicting the legendary foundation of Rome.

### PRODUCTION OF PLATINUM.

**Largest Proportion Comes From Russia—Gain in the United States.**

(From the Jeweler's Circular-Weekly.)

The war between Russia and Japan was probably responsible for the fact that the output of platinum in the United States increased from 110 ounces in 1903, valued at \$2,080, to 200 ounces, valued at \$4,160 in 1904. Owing to anxiety in regard to the fate of the platinum industry in Russia, the price of platinum rose about 10 per cent during 1904.

"It should not be understood," says Dr. David T. Day of the United States Geological Survey, "that the slight rise of 10 per cent. in the price of platinum would serve as any great stimulus to the placer gold miners of the West who furnish the platinum products of the United States, for these miners are comparatively indifferent to a slight change in price.

"The scarcity of platinum and the consequent rise in price, however, led to much energy on the part of Eastern smelters of platinum in urging upon the placer miners of the West the advisability of saving platinum in cleaning up the hydraulic mines. The increase thus effected is interesting as showing what is possible in the United States in the future."

In the opinion of Dr. Day, the outlook for increased production for the year 1905 is good, because the investigation undertaken by the Geological Survey of the black sands of the Pacific Slope and of the increased knowledge thus furnished to the miners in regard to the value of the platinum and to simple means of saving it.

The world's supply of platinum for the year amounted to about 300 kilograms, or 9,625 troy ounces from South America, and 6,000 kilograms, or 192,500 troy ounces from Russia. All the American platinum came from

California and Oregon, inasmuch as operations have been suspended in the Rambler Copper Mine, Wyoming, which furnished some platinum the year before. The imports of platinum into the United States during 1905 showed a decline of more than 8,000 ounces, due to European control of the supply.

### OLD GUNS ON A MISSOURI FARM.

#### Obsolete Weapons Buried in Civil War Recovered.

(From the Salisbury, Mo., Press-Spectator.)

W. D. Short, who lives near Rutledge, has recently dug up on his farm sixty-four old muskets which have been buried since the Spring of 1863. The farm where Mr. Short lives was once owned by his father in the time of the Civil War, and the story of the guns is an interesting one.

Col. Glover, with a force of Union soldiers, had camped near the Short homestead and was preparing supper when a troop of Confederate cavalry dashed upon them and captured the company. Col. Glover's soldiers were equipped with "fuse" guns, an army musket superseded throughout the army by more modern weapons long before the war closed. The Confederate troopers took the guns, but finding they had no ammunition for the old-style weapons, left them on the farm of Mr. Short.

The possession of so formidable a display of arms at that period, when even a squirrel rifle was on the prohibited list, very much alarmed Mr. Short and his family, and that night a trench was dug, the guns piled in and covered over. There the weapons have rested until one day last week, when W. D. Short by accident found the resting-place of the old firelocks and brought them to light.

The stocks are all rotted off and the iron barrels, rods and bayonets eaten with rust; but they show plainly the style of the gun, and locks and bands are all intact. Since his find has become known Mr. Short has been besieged by relic hunters for the old guns, and he has given them out to all applicants as souvenirs until all but two or three of the guns are gone.

### UNITED STATES DOLLARS.

#### (Haseltine's Type Table Up to Date.)

*Remarks on Preceding Article.*—There is in existence an experimental 1794 Dollar struck in copper before stars were added. Unique. 1795 No. 8; wide date; curl touches a point of star and makes nearly a perfect curl; lower right star is farther from date than in any other variety; rev., light delicate wreath with 19 berries, 10 on right and 9 on left; same number of berries as in Nos. 1 and 2, but most noticeable difference is that in Nos. 1 and 2 a berry is opposite the first stand of A in "America," while in this variety the berry is opposite the first stand of letter A; excessively rare, only two known.

1796—No. 1; small close date; 2 points of lowest star touches the curl; the highest part of curl on top of the head is directly under the perpendicular stand of E in "Liberty"; rev., 7 berries in wreath; small letters in legend; rare variety.

1796—No. 2; small wide date; 1 point of lowest star on left touches the hair; the highest part of curl on top of head is under the space between B and E in "Liberty"; rev., same as No. 1; scarce.

1796—No. 3; small wide date, but 6 closer to 9 than in No. 2 and the 1 and 7 not so close as in No. 1; stars small and a number of them on the right imperfect; the lowest star on the left does not quite touch the hair; the curl on top of the head defective; rev., same as No. 1; very scarce variety.

1796—No. 4; small wide date, has all the characteristics of No. 3, but the stars and curl are perfect; rev., wreath has 8 berries, lowest berry is between the leaves and ribbon bow; large letters in legend; rare.

1796—No. 5; large date; rev., 7 berries, but different wreath from No. 1; a leaf in wreath touches first S in "States"; very rare in fine condition.

1797—No. 1; 7 stars facing; rev., 8 berries in wreath, 1 being between the leaves and ribbon bow; a leaf points to first S in "States";



legend in large letters; the 1797 issues are the only dollars having 16 stars; the above variety very rare in fine condition.

1797—No. 2; 7 stars facing; same die as No. 1, but there seems to be an additional curl on top of the head under letter E in "Liberty"; rev., 7 berries; 2 leaves point to first T in "States"; legend in small letters; exceedingly rare variety.

1797—No. 3; 6 stars facing; wide date; rev., 8 berries in wreath; 1 berry underneath opposite the letter U in "United"; legend in large letters; scarce.

1798—No. 1; close date; 13 stars; knob to lower part of 9; rev., small eagle; 8 berries; exceedingly rare in sharp condition.

1798—No. 2; wide date; 15 stars; end of 9 has a knob; rev., small eagle; 7 berries; very rare.

The following all have 13 stars and large eagle reverses:

1798—No. 3; obv., like No. 1, but wider date; knob to the 9; star not near Y in "Liberty"; rev., star not near the eagle's beak; the 3 stars on extreme left between the eagle's beak and the clouds form a triangle; the eagle's claw is nearly over the thick part of A; 13 arrows in the other claw; the 2 upper berries in olive branch not close together; the stem of the branch turns downwards; a leaf points between R and I in "America"; scarce.

1798—No. 4; obv. same as No. 3; rev. the 3 stars on extreme left and right, extending from eagle's head to the clouds, are nearly in a straight line; the two upper center stars wide apart; the eagle's claw merely touches the letter A; the upper part of eagle's beak shuts down on a point of the star; the 2 upper berries in olive branch are close together; 10 good and 3 imperfect arrows in eagle's claw; stem of branch turns towards eagle's tail; leaf points to end of I nearest A in "America," almost touching it; scarce.

1798—No. 5; obv. same as No. 2; rev., similar to No. 4, but eagle's claw not so near letter A as in Nos. 3 and 4 and farther to left; star just touches point of upper part

of beak; leaf is farther from C and berry from A in "America"; broken die; excessively rare, very few known.

1798—No. 6; the 8 in date just about touches bust; the stars nearer Y in "Liberty" than in No. 3; knob to 9; rev., very similar to No. 4, only 10 perfect arrows in claw; stem of branch turns downwards as in No. 3; star opposite eagle's mouth does not touch beak; a break or mistake in die connects by a line lower part of first A in "America"; scarce.

1798—No. 7; obv., same as No. 6; rev., same as No. 3; excessively rare combination.

1798—No. 8; star nearer Y in "Liberty"; lower stars on left and right are nearer hair and bust than in any of the preceding excepting No. 2; close date not near bust; rev., only 4 berries on olive branch; 1 point of star touches ribbon between B and U in "Pluribus"; another point of same star nearly touches the lower part of eagle's beak; scarce.

No. 8 and succeeding varieties of 1798 Dollars have no knob to the 9.

1798—No. 9; close date; 8 very near bust; star very near L in "Liberty"; lower star on right almost touches bust; rev., almost exactly like No. 3, except claw is a little more over the thick part of A; 12 perfect arrows and 1 stick; the 2nd and 3rd berries from top of olive branch closer together; scarce.

1798—No. 10; lower star on left very far from hair and date; date medium width; star before and after word "Liberty"; and from bust, at even distances; rev., the 3 stars on left form an imperfect triangle; center star of 3 on right is inward from the other 2; the 2 upper berries in branch very close together as in No. 4; claw is to the left of letter A and not over any part of it; 13 perfect arrows; leaf points to the part of I nearest R in "America"; very rare variety.

Next issue of this paper will treat of varieties of 1798 Dollars—Nos. 11 to 30 inclusive.

(To be continued.)

## NUMISMATIC TABLOIDS.

United States Gold production during 1904, 3,910,739 fine ounces, value \$80,835,648 an increase of \$7,243,948 over 1903. Largest previous output 1902, \$80,000,000. Production of silver \$55,999,864 fine ounces, value \$32,635,378. The greatest increase was in California, while Utah, Montana and Washington all showed decrease.

Correcting former statements in Vol. 1, No. 1, would say that there was a half cent struck in 1854 in copper-nickel. Also pure copper cents were struck in 1863-'64, etc., also Aluminum cents were struck, these last being excessively rare. We are indebted to David Proskey for the above belated information.

Owing to sickness of author, article on Canadian Sou Tokens will appear in March issue.

It really doesn't pay to walk up and down all night in front of one's safe with a gun in hand, for it not only shows a lack of confidence in the police force, but also entails loss of sleep.

A 1794 Cent not in Hays' book has been discovered. It will receive our attention in due time, and possibly a cut of same may appear.

We had the pleasure of feasting our eyes the other day on the finest 1804 broken die Cent we have seen in 10, these many moons. Brother Ryder of Carmel, N. Y., is the proud possessor.

By our want column it will be seen we are still on the track of the finest 1799 Cent in the world. We sold one last week which was so good that we agreed to take it back at \$100 whenever either our client or ourselves found a better one.

## CENTS OF 1794.

Hays' No. 7.—Obv. as No. 6, but is usually found in this combination with a crack from border, through the upright of E extending in a straight line nearly to center of hair. Rev. 9 berries on left, one between and near base of lower leaves on outside, another

touching top of first inside leaf; six on right branch—the lowest one is imperfect and blends with top of leaf; top leaves of branches touch. The end of right ribbon long and perpendicular, nearly reaching lower part of last 0 in fraction; left section of bow imperfect in its lower part; left stem short and close to ribbon, right one long and widely separated from it; U and N of UNITED almost touch at top, E slightly out of position. D is low; in STATES first T is low and distant from S; T E S widely spaced. R. 1.

No. 8.—Obv. Same as No. 6. Rev. Lettering small and regular; dividing line in fractional value short, the denominator widely spaced and close to milling; 8 berries in each branch arranged like Hays 1, but several of the berries have shorter stems. Right stem of wreath further from letter A and left stem further from ribbon than on Hays 1. The great and distinguishing feature of this variety is a circle of 94 minute stars at or between the points of milling. Excessively rare and very seldom found in even fair condition. R. 5.

Mr. Henry C. Miller, who possesses one of the very few perfect specimens of this variety, kindly furnished us with the above description of Reverse, the one illustrated in Hays being too poor to be properly described.

No. 9.—Obv. Hair terminates in 7 locks, lower one distinct and heavy, in upper part bulging over back part of neck in a peculiar manner not found on any other die. In LIBERTY, L close to cap, I B widely spaced, and RT nearer to head than to milling. In date 1 is distinct from 7, but its top is not so close to lower lock as in No. 6, the point of sharp 4 just touches bust. Rev. Same as No. 7. R. 5.

No. 10. Obv. Hair terminates in 7 locks; lower one curves inward and others are long, waving, slender and irregular in position. LIBERTY is slightly nearer cap and head than milling. Tall, curved date regularly spaced, 1 almost touches hair and 4 nearly touches bust. This obv. is found with crack in die extending in a nearly horizontal line from border through second lock of hair from bottom; another crack extends upwards between 1 and 7 of date, and one connecting with this



at 7, curves across point of bust to end of pole. Rev. Same as No. 7. R. 4.

No. 11.—Obv. The 7 termini of hair are rather thick; 3 upper ones widely spaced; L in LIBERTY near cap and bottom of R about same distance from hair. In date 1 is near the lower lock and sharp, 4 nearly touches bust; the stem of 7 long and slanting towards 1. This obv. is found with a crack in die, from milling to hair just below the cap. Rev. Same as No. 7. R. 1.

No. 12.—Obv. Same as No. 11, generally found with die break. Rev. 9 berries to left branch, the 3 near top microscopic and stemless and 7 to right. Right ribbon approaches short dividing line, and then turns to right forming angle, left ribbon diverges to left, the knot of ribbon bow is double. In N of ONE the connecting line of the perpendiculars is prolonged at its lower extremity. In STATES the first T and A are joined at bottom, and first A in AMERICA is distant from M. R. 2.

No. 13.—Obv. Same as No. 12. Rev. Berries large; 6 to left and 5 to right branch, the upper one without stem. Branch stem on right points directly to stand of A, and does not connect with ribbon. In STATES first T and A are both out of position—T low and A high, leaning to left and distant from second T. In AMERICA, M is slightly low and distant from E. Knot to ribbon bow is double, and lower end of right ribbon is detached. R. 1.

No. 14.—Obv. Bust pyramidal, the hair locks short, fifth from bottom fine and separated from mass of hair. In LIBERTY R is nearer to hair than L to cap; date tall and close; 4 farther from bust than 1 from hair. Rev. 7 berries to each branch; lower one on left touches bow, right ribbon diverges and is distant from fractional line. In STATES first S and A are slightly high and first T out of position, top leans towards S; A in AMERICA small, high and slightly out of position to left. R. 1.

No. 15.—Obv. Bust low; hair ends in 7 locks; end of pole touches milling; R in LIBERTY is high; date widely spaced and close to milling; 1 nearly touches hair and 4 is distant from bust. Rev. 7 berries to each branch; right ribbon extends nearly to center of stand of A. All letters

evenly spaced, but C in CENT is too small. This rev. is found with crack in die from milling under end of left ribbon, merging 1 of 100 with the fractional line and extending through last A in AMERICA to milling. R. 1.

(To be continued.)

#### BANK BILLS OF VERMONT.

In the early part of the last century Vermont had a State currency with branch banks at Middlebury, Burlington, Westminster, and Woodstock. The State Treasurer's office was located at Woodstock, and here the notes were redeemed and paid in full, probably during the years from 1826 to 1835.

Of the Burlington Branch there are found one or more notes of following denominations, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00.

Of the Middlebury Branch, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.25 (1), \$1.50 (2), \$2.00, \$3.00, \$5.00, \$10.00.

Of the Westminster Branch, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, 2.00, \$3.00, \$5.00, \$10.00.

Of the Woodstock Branch, 50c., 75c., \$1.00, \$1.50 (1), \$1.75 (1), \$2.00, \$3.00, \$5.00.

The total number of banks and denominations is therefore 29; but as there are varieties in several of the enumerated issues, at least five sets of 25 notes each can be made up for those collectors who desire to possess the greatest possible number of banks, denominations, and varieties.

Collectors will, of course, understand that the limit of time for redemption by the State of Vermont expired some 75 years ago, and that the sole and only use to which these notes can now be put is to place in albums and collections of paper money or State Banks currency, to fill a space, until the present time, entirely vacant; for, with the exception of a few stray specimens, no bank-bills of Vermont have ever been offered.

#### DENVER MINT.

The press at the new Denver mint was put into operation Nov. 1, and in the presence of the Governor and of State and mint officials a souvenir coin was struck off. The coinage was on brass and bears the imprint of the \$20 gold piece die.

The coin will be placed in the archives of the State Historical Society. The souvenir bears the imprint "Denver, 1905."

The press was stopped after the souvenir was coined, and will not be put in operation again until the first of the year, when coinage is expected to begin.

### Charles Porter Nichols.

On Sunday, November 12th, 1905, there passed away at Springfield, Mass., Major Charles Porter Nichols, one of America's most prominent Numismatists and our beloved friend. Born in Oxford, Mass., in 1822 of good old New England stock, he became through hard work, and the strictest of integrity and faithfulness, one of the most noted Railroad men in the country. As paymaster of various railroads for over forty years, millions of dollars passed through his hands, and at no time in his career were his accounts found wanting in so much as a single penny. His name was synonymous for probity of purpose and kindness of nature, and in our entire experience of 25 years we never have met with a person more enthusiastic or devoted to his chosen hobby. We had the pleasure of visiting Major Nichols at his home during our last visit to the East, and his death came to us as a sudden blow. Major Nichols left a widow who had been his loving companion since 1853, but no children, one daughter having died about 30 years ago, while his only son died while still under 2 years old.

### PAST SALES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1st. Lyman H. Low sold the P. H. Hoch (Part II) and Teweles Collections of Coins and Medals. Number of lots, 497 and best prices obtained were for 1855 D Gold Dollar, \$56. A \$10 Pike's Peak 1860 Clark Gruber brought \$33.50 while an 1862 Union Thaler of Leichtenstein in proof condition brought \$7.25.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21st. G. C. Adams sold the E. R. Prentice Collection. Number of lots, 805 and best prices were for Willow Tree Shilling, \$13.50; 1856 Cent \$8.50. Although bidding was spirited the 805 lots were disposed of in two hours, thereby establishing a new record.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20th. S. H. & H. Chapman sold the Lockwood-Treat Collection. Number of lots, 671. Best prices 1797 Cent \$12.00; 1860 D Mint Dollar, gold, \$40; 1863 gold Dollar \$40; 1875 gold Dollar \$60; Breton No. 861, \$34; 1873 gold Dollar, \$51. Total for sale \$1,825.00.

### COMING SALES.

In January G. C. Adams will sell a collection of Coins and Medals, the property of a prominent Maine collector.

In February G. C. Adams will sell the J. W. Stevens Collection, of Atlanta, Georgia.

In March G. C. Adams will sell the collection of H. F. Dawson, of New York City.

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BY A. G. HEATON.

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(From "A. S. of C. C. Bulletin.")

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## The Collectors' Exchange List

SECOND ISSUE BY

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